



## **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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### **INSTALLATION OF NEW INTERSTATE SIGNAGE UNDERWAY ON I-85 AND I-985**

BUFORD, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation announces two projects to upgrade interstate signage in Northeast Georgia are underway. The Interstate 85 project begins at Interstate 985 in Gwinnett and continues to the South Carolina State Line at an estimated construction cost of \$2.2 million. The Interstate 985 project begins at I-85 and continues to its end north of Exit 24 at an estimated construction cost of \$2.1 million.

“These signs are ten years old and are losing their retro-reflectivity, meaning the signs aren’t reflecting back to the driver well in low light conditions. The signs may look fine during the day but in low light conditions, they can be difficult to see. The new signs will be more visible from a longer distance allowing motorists to read them from farther away. This gives drivers more time to make driving decisions that improves safety for everyone. These signs are the oldest in our system so they will be replaced first,” explained State Traffic Engineer, Kathy Zahul.

Most work will occur on the shoulder of the interstate. Today, crews are surveying existing signs and double checking sign plans on Interstate 85. Crews on Interstate 985 are digging footings and driving pile for the new signs. Please slow down through the area and move left as you see crews working on the shoulder of the interstate. As overhead signs are installed some lane closures and traffic pacing will be required, likely late this summer or early fall as weather permits.

The work plan on Interstate 85 breaks the project into two phases. Phase one, is the southern part of the project from I-985 to Exit 147 – Commerce/Maysville. Work will begin on the northbound side of the interstate at I-985 and work north to Exit 147 then come back south to I-985. Phase two, is the northern section and will begin after phase one is completed. Crews will start phase two at Exit 147 and move north to the state line and then work south to Exit 147.

The work plan for the Interstate 985 projects has crews starting their work at I-85, the southern end of the project. They will work on I-985 northbound from I-85 to exit 24 in Hall County then will turn south and work back to I-85 in Gwinnett.

Lane closures and traffic pacing will occur for the large overhead signage. That work will likely occur late summer or early fall as weather permit.

Sheets Construction Company is the prime contractor for both projects and the completion date for both projects is October 31, 2011.

A statewide interstate sign maintenance plan keeps an inventory. Projects will be developed based on a systematic review by Georgia DOT Engineers to ensure safe visibility for motorists. Projects will occur along corridors for continuity and to use funds most effectively and efficiently.

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone, web, and mobile service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. Additionally, 511 is available online or as a hybrid solution via a free download for your smart phone. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, its mobile application download, or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org).

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Georgia is the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state in the nation, yet 49<sup>th</sup> in per capita spending on transportation. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our website ([www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)).

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